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Samoa

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in reports of the treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, in reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. For the full texts, please refer to the documents referenced. The report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review, and developments during that period.

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Please recycle

I. Background and framework

A. Scope of international obligations[1]

1. International human rights treaties[2]

	Status during previous cycle	*Action after review*	*Not ratified/not accepted*
Ratification, accession or succession	ICCPR (2008)	CRPD (signature, 2014)	ICERD
	CEDAW (1992)	ICPPED (2012)	ICESCR
	CRC (1994)		CAT
	ICPPED (signature, 2007)		OP-CAT
			OP-CRC-AC
			OP-CRC-SC
			ICCPR-OP 2
			ICRMW
			CRPD (signature, 2014)
Reservations and/or declarations	ICCPR (declaration, arts. 8 (3) and 10 (2) and (3), 2008)		
	CRC (reservation, art. 28 (1) (a), 1994)		
Complaints procedures, inquiries and urgent action[3]		ICPPED, art. 33 (2012)	ICERD
			OP-ICESCR
			ICCPR, art. 41
			ICCPR-OP 1
			OP-CEDAW
			CAT
			OP-CRC-IC
			ICRMW
			OP-CRPD
			ICPPED, arts. 31 and 32

2. Other main relevant international instruments

Status during previous cycle	*Action after review*	*Not ratified*
Ratification, accession or succession		Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
	Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	
		Palermo Protocol[4]
	Conventions on refugees and stateless persons[5]	1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons
	Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II[6]	Additional Protocol III to the 1949 Geneva Conventions[7]
	ILO fundamental conventions[8]	
		ILO Conventions Nos. 169 and 189[9]
		UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education

1. In 2012, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women encouraged Samoa to ratify ICESCR, ICERD, CAT, ICRMW, ICPPED and CRPD.[10] The Committee called upon Samoa to ratify OP-CEDAW,[11] and urged it to ratify the International Labour Organization (ILO) Maternity Protection Convention (Revised), 1952 (No. 103) and the ILO Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156), and to adopt provisions to extend maternity leave in both the public and private sectors to 14 weeks.[12] The Committee also called upon Samoa to ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and other relevant international instruments.[13]

2. The United Nations country team recommended that Samoa ratify and accede to the remaining five core international human rights treaties—ICESCR, ICERD, CAT, CRPD and ICRMW—and the optional protocols to international treaties, and to implement them through domestic application.[14]

3. The country team noted that Samoa had signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in September 2014, and that the Government was in the process of moving towards ratification. The country team welcomed that development and encouraged the Government of Samoa to continue progress towards ratifying the Convention in line with recommendations accepted during its first universal periodic review in 2011.[15]

4. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recommended that Samoa pursue accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.[16]

5. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended that Samoa be strongly encouraged to ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education.[17]

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

6. The country team indicated that, to address the low representation of women in Parliament, a constitutional amendment introducing a 10 per cent quota for women representatives in the national Legislative Assembly had been passed by Parliament in 2013.

7. The country team noted that the new Crimes Act 2013, which repealed the Crimes Ordinance of 1961, outlined penalties for sexual offences. Sexual offences listed under the Act included sexual violation, sexual assault and trafficking.

8. The country team also noted that in 2014 Samoa had established a Family Court through the Family Court Act 2014. The Family Court was a division of the District Court, and its purpose was to promote alternative forms of dispute resolution and conciliation. The Family Safety Act 2013 provided for an extensive definition of domestic violence. Important elements of the Act were the ability of a child to apply for a protection order without the consent of a parent or legal guardian, the duties of the police and the "no drop policy", under which a report of domestic violence that involved any form of physical or sexual abuse must be pursued with intent to prosecute. The Family Court, which since its establishment had tried over 800 cases, was the first dedicated family court in the Pacific region outside of Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. The Family Court dealt with criminal cases related to family violence, and sought to hold defendants accountable for their actions and to compel them to address their violence in an appropriate way.

9. The country team encouraged advocacy on the Samoa Child Care and Protection Bill 2013, ownership by key partner agencies and passage of the bill in Parliament.[18] The ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations expressed the hope that the bill would be adopted in the near future.[19]

10. UNHCR stated that Samoa had not yet enacted its international refugee obligations into domestic law. Development of a draft refugee status determination bill had previously been initiated and remained to be adopted.[20]

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

11. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Samoa to establish, within a clear time frame, an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles).[21]

12. The Committee encouraged Samoa to adopt temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4 (1) of the Convention, as interpreted in general recommendation No. 25 of the Committee, in all areas covered by the Convention in which women were underrepresented or disadvantaged.[22]

13. The country team noted that in May 2013, the Parliament of Samoa had passed the Ombudsman (*Komesina O Sulufaiga*) Act 2013, which broadened the Ombudsman's

functions with regard to promoting and protecting human rights. While the Ombudsman/national human rights institution of Samoa was yet to be accredited by the International Coordinating Committee on National Human Rights Institutions, the legislation underpinning the mandate of the organization was based on the spirit of the Paris Principles, and the institution was seen as a model for Pacific region countries. The country team encouraged Samoa to continue to support the work of the Ombudsman/national human rights institution and to ensure that the Ombudsman received adequate funding and resources to effectively carry out its mandate.[23]

14. The country team stated that, in order to improve the tracking of cases and identify obstacles in accessing appropriate legal outcomes, Samoa had implemented a monitoring and evaluation system for the Family Violence Court and Family Court, with support from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The Court was in need of support mechanisms to provide counseling and guidance to families.[24]

Status of national human rights institutions[25]

National human rights institution	*Status during previous cycle*	*Status during present cycle*[26]
Ombudsman/national human rights institution		Accreditation will be considered by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Sub-Committee on Accreditation at its session to be held from 9 to 13 May 2016[27]

15. In 2014, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and the United Nations Development Programme, conducted a capacity assessment of the Office of the Ombudsman in Samoa. Subsequently, OHCHR provided technical support to the development by the Ombudsman of a human rights report, which was published and disseminated nationally.[28]

II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

A. Cooperation with treaty bodies

1. Reporting status

Treaty body	*Concluding observations included in previous review*	*Latest report submitted since previous review*	*Latest concluding observations*	*Reporting status*
Human Rights Committee	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2009
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	January 2005	-	July 2012	Sixth report due in 2016

Treaty body	*Concluding observations included in previous review*	*Latest report submitted since previous review*	*Latest concluding observations*	*Reporting status*
Committee on the Rights of the Child	September 2006	2014 (initially due in 2011)	-	Second to fourth reports pending consideration in 2016
Committee on Enforced Disappearances	-	-	-	Initial report overdue since 2014

2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

Concluding observations

Treaty body	*Due in*	*Subject matter*	*Submitted in*
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	2014	Gender equality and education of women and girls[29]	2015[30]

B. Cooperation with special procedures[31]

	Status during previous cycle	*Current status*
Standing invitation	No	Yes
Visits undertaken		
Visits agreed to in principle		
Visits requested		
Responses to letters of allegation and urgent appeals	None	
Follow-up reports and missions		

C. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

16. In August 2015, OHCHR, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community/Regional Rights Resource Team provided technical assistance to the Government of Samoa and civil society in preparation for the country's second universal periodic review.[32]

III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Equality and non-discrimination

17. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned that the Convention had still not been fully domesticated as part of national law, and that Samoa had yet to adopt and incorporate into the Constitution or other relevant legislation a definition of discrimination against women, including direct and indirect discrimination, in line with article 1 of the Convention.[33] The Committee urged Samoa to accord high priority to the process of fully incorporating the Convention into its national legal system, and to include in the Constitution or in other appropriate national legislation a definition of discrimination against women in line with article 1 of the Convention.[34]

18. The Committee also urged Samoa to put in place, without delay, a comprehensive strategy to modify or eliminate patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes that discriminated against women; to expand public education programmes, in particular in rural areas; to use innovative measures that targeted the media to strengthen understanding of the equality of women and men; and to use the education system to enhance a positive and non-stereotypical portrayal of women.[35]

19. The country team encouraged the Government to further support substantive interventions to reduce violence against women and girls and on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, through legislation, inter-agency collaboration and response systems; and to support the availability of free legal assistance and formal alternatives to dispute resolution mechanisms for family matters.[36]

20. The country team stated that gender equality was undermined by women's poor access to employment, property, financial credit and bank loans. In 2012, Samoa and six other Pacific region countries had received low global rankings on the women's economic opportunity index, which looked at women's access to property and finance. The country team urged the Government to review and reform all policies, legislation and practices that restricted women's equal rights to employment, property and finance as an important step towards improving women's economic empowerment and achieving gender equality.[37]

21. While noting that Samoa was reviewing the Lands and Titles Act to amend existing discriminatory provisions, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned at the prevalence of discriminatory customs and traditional practices that prevented rural women from inheriting or acquiring ownership of land and other property. It called upon Samoa to eliminate all forms of discrimination with regard to ownership, co-sharing and inheritance of land, and to address negative customs and traditional practices.[38]

22. The country team indicated that Samoa had signed the joint statement on ending acts of violence and related human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity at the session of the Human Rights Council held in March 2011. However, same-sex relations and activity between consenting adults were still criminalized and there had been no changes in that regard. The country team urged the Government of Samoa to end discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, including through decriminalizing sexual activity between consenting adults of the same sex.[39]

B. Right to life, liberty and security of person

23. The country team stated, that although legislation was in place and court structures had been established to address violence against women, survivors of violence still faced difficulties accessing the formal justice system in Samoa. One of those barriers was the perception of and attitude towards domestic violence. Despite education and training, many police officers and prosecutors continued to believe that violence against women, and particularly domestic violence, did not constitute a criminal offence. A number of institutional measures had been adopted to address barriers and difficulties faced by victims with regard to accessing the formal justice system. Those measures included mandatory arrest and prosecution, as well as pro-arrest and pro-prosecution policies.[40]

24. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed its concern at the high prevalence of violence, in particular domestic and sexual violence, against women and at the lack of information and statistical data on its nature, extent and causes. The Committee was deeply concerned that violence against women appeared to be socially legitimized and accompanied by a culture of silence and impunity and that cases of violence were therefore underreported. The Committee noted with concern that Samoa had yet to establish a shelter for women victims of violence.[41]

25. The Committee urged Samoa to put in place comprehensive measures to prevent and address violence against women and girls, ensuring that women and girls who were victims of violence had access to immediate means of redress and protection and that perpetrators were prosecuted; to provide mandatory training for judges and prosecutors on the strict application of legal provisions dealing with violence against women and to train police officers on procedures for dealing with women victims of violence; to encourage women to report incidents of domestic and sexual violence by destigmatizing victims and raising awareness about the criminal nature of such acts; to provide adequate assistance and protection to women victims of violence by establishing shelters, especially in rural areas, and enhancing cooperation with non-governmental organizations providing shelter and rehabilitation to victims; and to collect statistical data on domestic and sexual violence.[42]

26. The Committee was concerned about the lack of efforts to prevent the exploitation of prostitution and the fact that Samoa had ratified none of the international instruments in the area of combating trafficking and exploitation of prostitution.[43]

27. The Committee called upon the State to implement article 6 of the Convention and to include in its subsequent report information and data on the prevalence of trafficking and the exploitation of prostitution, address the root causes of trafficking and prostitution, including poverty, and strive to ensure the recovery and social integration of victims.[44]

28. The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations noted with satisfaction the adoption of the Crimes Act 2013, which contained in its section 155 a specific provision prohibiting the sale and trafficking of children.[45] The Committee requested the Government to continue to provide information on the application in practice of section 155, including the number of investigations and prosecutions, and any measures taken with regard to the identification of victims of trafficking.[46]

29. UNESCO recommended that Samoa be encouraged to prohibit corporal punishment in all settings.[47]

30. The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations requested the Government to take the necessary measures to identify and protect children engaged in street vending from the worst forms of child labour, and to provide information on the number of child street vendors who had been removed from the worst forms of child labour by the police and school attendance officers.[48] The Committee

also requested the Government to indicate the measures taken or envisaged with regard to adopting regulations determining the types of hazardous work prohibited for children under 18 years pursuant to the Labour and Employment Act 2013.[49] The country team noted that, in April 2015, Samoa had established a working group on child labour, comprising a number of governmental and non-governmental partners, to plan and coordinate advocacy on child labour.[50]

C. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

31. The country team stated that Samoa was the first country in the Pacific region, with its Young Offenders Act 2007, to incorporate traditions and culture into its judicial response. In that context, the Ministry of Justice and Courts Administration had established a programme for young offenders to be placed in chosen villages, usually with the family of the mayor or pastor. The young offender's sentence was served under the supervision of the family and village. The programme had shown a high success rate of 90 per cent, with only 10 per cent of programme participants re-offending.[51]

D. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and the right to participate in public and political life

32. The country team noted that in early 2015 the Parliament had adopted the Media Council Act 2014. The Council would be responsible for dealing with complaints from the public against the media. The country team encouraged the Government to support local media industries in their effort to establish media ethics and to apply those ethics. The country team further encouraged those media industries to become more influential in convincing the Government to embrace freedom of the press.[52]

33. UNESCO recommended that Samoa be encouraged to introduce a freedom of information law that was in accordance with international standards, and to further strengthen self-regulatory mechanisms for the media.[53]

34. The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations requested the Government to provide information on the application in practice of sections 41-43 of the Crimes Act 2013, which punished the intention of undermining the authority of the Government, unlawful assembly and disorderly assembly, including by providing information on any arrests, prosecutions, convictions and penalties imposed and copies of court decisions illustrating the scope of the application of those sections of the Act.[54]

35. The country team stated that the representation of women in Parliament and their political participation remained a challenge. In Samoa, only *matai* (a chief title) were allowed to run for elected office. The number of women holding *matai* titles was low, and there were cases of villages refusing to give women such titles. That constituted a major barrier to increasing the numbers of women running in elections.[55]

E. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

36. The country team indicated that Samoa had taken important steps to bring its labour laws into line with international standards, including standards promoted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the core ILO Conventions. Law reform, in particular the enactment of the Labour and Employment Relations Act 2013,[56] which had repealed the Labour and Employment Act 1972, included maternity and paternity leave entitlements and other fundamental employment rights like equal pay,

prohibitions on forced labour and employment discrimination (based on gender, ethnicity and sexual orientation), and the right to collective bargaining and freedom of association.[57] The country team urged Samoa to make every effort to ensure the effective implementation of the important rights it had now legislated under the Labour and Employment Relations Act 2013.[58]

37. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned at continuing vertical and horizontal occupational segregation and the persistent wage gap between women and men. The Committee was also concerned that, as acknowledged by the State party, formal employment opportunities were limited and women were concentrated in the informal sector, where there were no benefits such as social security. The Committee was further concerned that maternity leave in both the public and private sectors was not in line with international standards.[59]

38. The Committee urged Samoa to accord high priority to the adoption of the Labour and Relations Bill within a specific time frame; to establish a regulatory framework for the informal sector with a view to providing women in that sector with access to social security and other benefits; and to take temporary special measures to eliminate both vertical and horizontal occupational segregation so as to narrow and close the gap between women and men, in accordance with ILO conventions 103 and 156.[60]

F. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

39. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed its concern at the disadvantaged position of women in rural areas. It called upon Samoa to ensure that rural women enjoyed access to health-care services, education, clean water, sanitation services and income-generating projects.[61]

40. The country team noted that the 2012-2016 Strategy for the Development of Samoa focused on boosting productivity for sustainable development through a number of key areas, for example, private sector investment, export capacity, investment in social sectors and infrastructure. Samoa was food secure in that it could afford to import food to make up for any shortfall in domestic production.[62]

G. Right to health

41. The country team indicated that Samoa was on track to achieve, or had already achieved, Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6, which were the internationally agreed targets encompassing infant and under-five mortality; maternal mortality and skilled attendance at birth; and HIV prevalence and tuberculosis treatment. There had been an increase in life expectancy and a decrease in child mortality in Samoa. Between 1991 and 2011, life expectancy at birth had increased from 64 years to 76 years.[63] The Government of Samoa had enshrined the right to health in the Strategy for the Development of Samoa 2012-2016.[64]

42. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women welcomed the adoption of the national HIV/AIDS policy for 2011-2016.[65] It was concerned about the high rate of teenage pregnancy and that existing sex education programmes were insufficient. The Committee urged Samoa to widely promote education on sexual and reproductive health and rights, targeting adolescent girls and boys and paying special attention to early pregnancy and control of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.[66]

43. The country team encouraged the Government to safeguard reproductive rights, and recommended integrating quality sexual and reproductive health and family planning

services into all primary health-care services.[67] The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women urged Samoa to review the current laws on abortion to remove punitive provisions imposed on women who had undergone abortions and provide access to high-quality services for the management of complications arising from unsafe abortions.[68]

44. In 2015, the Committee on the Rights of the Child requested information on the main achievements in adolescent health of the national youth policy for 2011-2015 and the national health policy for 2012-2017, namely regarding suicide, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and discrimination against pregnant girls.[69]

45. While welcoming the adoption of the health sector plan for 2008-2018, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned about the status of women's health, in particular that of women in rural areas who experienced difficulties in gaining access to affordable and appropriate health care in a timely manner. It urged Samoa to improve women's access to health care and health-related services.[70]

H. Right to education

46. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was concerned at the high dropout rates between the primary and secondary levels (46 per cent) and the lack of information on tertiary enrolment; at the high number of girls who were victims of sexual abuse and harassment in schools by teachers; at the high dropout rate and the low retention and completion rates for girls, especially at the secondary and tertiary levels, owing to teenage pregnancy, discriminatory traditional and cultural practices and poverty, especially in rural areas; and at traditional views of both students and teachers, which oriented female students into areas of study perceived as appropriate to their social roles and participation in public life.[71]

47. The Committee urged the State party to address barriers to the education of women and girls, such as negative cultural attitudes and excessive domestic duties, to take steps to reduce and prevent dropouts among girls and to strengthen the implementation of re-entry policies enabling girls who drop out to return to school; to provide safe educational environments free from discrimination and violence and to institute measures to protect girls from sexual harassment and violence in schools, in particular in rural areas; to strengthen awareness-raising and training for school officials and students, and for children through the media, and to establish reporting and accountability mechanisms to ensure that perpetrators of sexual abuse and harassment in schools are prosecuted and punished.[72]

48. The Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations expressed the firm hope that the Government would take the necessary measures, without delay, to ensure that the age of completion of compulsory schooling was raised to 15 years, which was the minimum age for admission to employment for Samoa.[73]

49. UNESCO stated that Samoa had adopted policies to improve the focus on access to education, quality of education for all and inclusive education through the corporate plan for July 2012-June 2015 based on the development of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture strategic policies and plan for 2006-2015, along with the strategy for the development of Samoa for 2012-2016.[74] UNESCO indicated that Samoa could be encouraged to continue implementing strategic plans focusing on access to education for all and free primary education and integrate non-discriminatory principles in order to enhance the quality of education at all levels.[75]

I. Cultural rights

50. UNESCO recommended that Samoa be encouraged to implement the relevant provisions promoting access to and participation in cultural heritage and creative expressions and, as such, were conducive to implementing the right to take part in cultural life as defined in article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.[76]

51. The country team encouraged Samoa to finalize its cultural policy for official launch and to continue to engage in heritage safeguarding.[77]

J. Persons with disabilities

52. UNESCO stated that steps had been taken to promote special education for persons with disabilities, with special attention paid to girls and women with disabilities (strategic policies and plan for 2006-2015).[78]

53. The country team stated that, at present, there were limited services, employment, facilities and access for persons with disabilities in Samoa. There were no Government-operated facilities to look after young people or children with disabilities; services for children with disabilities were provided by two non-governmental organizations.[79]

54. The Committee on the Rights of the Child requested information on the measures taken to mainstream the participation of children with disabilities into the formal education system and on the main results achieved regarding children's rights by the national policy for persons with disabilities and the implementation plan for 2009-2012.[80]

K. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

55. UNHCR stated that access to sustainable resources for reception that could facilitate local integration was an area in need of improvement and continuing development. There was limited information available on arrivals of persons who might be in need of international protection.[81]

56. UNHCR recommended that Samoa pursue its commitment to promote and protect the rights of refugees and asylum seekers by continuing political and policy discussions to elaborate a national legal and policy framework that provided protection to refugees and asylum seekers; develop national mechanisms that addressed their needs and ensured appropriate engagement of relevant international organizations; and participate in capacity-building and training opportunities on refugee protection at the national, regional and international levels.[82]

L. Right to development, and environmental issues

57. The country team stated that there were considerable challenges that Samoa faced in addressing the effects of climate change on the country. Samoa received considerable aid for climate change adaptation; however, there was limited coordination between the institutions responsible for managing those resources. Additionally, there were gaps in information on climate change and limited integrated planning. That included the lack of a national system to monitor and evaluate the long-term effects of climate change and the success of adaptation and disaster risk management interventions. The country team urged the Government to utilize a rights-based approach in climate change mitigation strategies.[83]

58. While bearing in mind the vulnerability of Samoa to natural disasters, the Committee on the Rights of the Child requested information on how child protection issues were taken into consideration and addressed by the national disaster management plan for 2011-2015 and the national action plan for disaster risk management for 2011-2016.[84]

Notes

[1] Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratification of instruments listed in the table may be found on the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, http://treaties.un.org/. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation on Samoa from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/11/WSM/2).

[2] The following abbreviations have been used in the present document.

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

[3] Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art. 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art. 5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and ICPPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; ICPPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13. Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; ICPPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: ICPPED, art. 30.

[4] Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

[5] 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

[6] Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); and Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts

(Protocol II). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, www.icrc.org/IHL.

[7] Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross, www.icrc.org/IHL.

[8] International Labour Organization (ILO) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29); Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105); Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87); Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98); Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100); Discrimination (Employment and Occupation Convention, 1958 (No. 111); Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138); Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).

[9] ILO, Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169); and Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189).

[10] See CEDAW/C/WSM/CO/4-5, para. 47.

[11] Ibid., para. 42.

[12] Ibid., para. 31.

[13] Ibid., para. 25.

[14] See country team submission for the universal periodic review of Samoa, sect. I.A.

[15] Ibid., para. 59. See also A/HRC/18/14, recommendations 73.7-73.8 and 75.13-75.17.

[16] Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) submission for the universal periodic review of Samoa, p. 3. See also A/HRC/18/14, recommendation 75.20.

[17] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) submission for the universal periodic review of Samoa, para. 44.

[18] See country team submission, para. 23.

[19] ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, observation concerning ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) — Samoa, adopted in 2013, published 103rd ILC session (2014).

[20] UNHCR submission, p. 1.

[21] See CEDAW/C/WSM/CO/4-5, para. 17.

[22] Ibid., para. 19.

[23] See country team submission, paras. 12-13. See also A/HRC/18/14, recommendations 73.15-73.24, 74.7, 75.22 and 75.24 in A/HRC/18/14.

[24] See country team submission, para. 11. See also A/HRC/18/14, recommendation 74.25 in A/HRC/18/14.

[25] According to article 5 of the rules of procedure of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Sub-Committee on Accreditation, the classifications for accreditation used by the Sub-Committee are: A: voting member (fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles); B: non-voting member (not fully in compliance with each of the Paris Principles or insufficient information provided to make a determination); and C: no status (not in compliance with the Paris Principles).

[26] For the list of national human rights institutions with accreditation status granted by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, see http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Documents/Status%20Accreditation%20Chart.pdf.

[27] See http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/ICCAccreditation/Pages/nextsession.aspx.

[28] See A/70/347, para. 41.

[29] See CEDAW/C/WSM/CO/4-5, para. 49.

[30] CEDAW/C/WSM/CO/4-5/Add.1.

[31] For the titles of special procedure mandate holders, see www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx.

[32] See country team submission, para. 14. See also A/HRC/18/14, recommendation 73.26 in A/HRC/18/14.

[33] See CEDAW/C/WSM/CO/4-5, para. 12.

[34] Ibid., para. 13.

[35] Ibid., para. 21.

[36] See country team submission, para. 11.

[37] Ibid., para. 20.

[38] See CEDAW/C/WSM/CO/4-5, paras. 34-35.
[39] See country team submission, para. 22. See also A/HRC/18/14, recommendations 75.38-75.41.
[40] See country team submission, paras. 28 and 30.
[41] See CEDAW/C/WSM/CO/4-5, para. 22.
[42] Ibid., para. 23.
[43] Ibid., para. 24.
[44] Ibid., para. 25.
[45] ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, observation concerning ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) — Samoa, adopted 2013, published 103rd ILC session (2014).
[46] ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) — Samoa, adopted in 2013, published 103rd ILC session (2014).
[47] See UNESCO submission, para. 44.
[48] ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, observation concerning ILO Worst Forms of child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) — Samoa, adopted in 2013, published 103rd ILC session (2014).
[49] ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, observation concerning ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.138) — Samoa, adopted in 2013, published 103rd ILC session (2014).
[50] See country team submission, para. 45. See also A/HRC/18/14, recommendation 74.20.
[51] See country team submission, para. 26 and 28.
[52] Ibid., para. 31.
[53] See UNESCO submission, paras. 47-48.
[54] ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, direct request concerning ILO Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105), adopted in 2013, published 103rd ILC session (2014).
[55] See country team submission, para. 36.
[56] Ibid., para. 39. See also A/HRC/18/14, recommendation 74.30.
[57] See country team submission, para. 39.
[58] Ibid., para. 40.
[59] See CEDAW/C/WSM/CO/4-5, para. 30.
[60] Ibid., para. 31.
[61] Ibid., paras. 34-35.
[62] See country team submission, paras. 33 and 35. See also A/HRC/18/14, recommendation 73.35.
[63] See country team submission, para. 46.
[64] Ibid., para. 47.
[65] See CEDAW/C/WSM/CO/4-5, para. 5.
[66] Ibid., paras. 32-33.
[67] See country team submission, para. 51.
[68] See CEDAW/C/WSM/CO/4-5, para. 33.
[69] See CRC/C/WSM/Q/2-4, para. 11.
[70] See CEDAW/C/WSM/CO/4-5, paras. 32-33.
[71] Ibid., para. 28.
[72] Ibid., para. 29.
[73] ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, observation concerning ILO Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No.138) — Samoa, adopted in 2013, published 103rd ILC session (2014).
[74] See UNESCO submission, para. 43.
[75] Ibid., para. 44.
[76] Ibid., para. 46.
[77] See country team submission, para. 57.
[78] See UNESCO submission, para. 43.
[79] See country team submission, para. 62. See also A/HRC/18/14, recommendations 74.31, 74.9.
[80] See CRC/C/WSM/Q/2-4, para. 9.
[81] UNHCR submission, p. 1.

[82] Ibid., p. 3. See also A/HRC/18/14, recommendation 75.43.
[83] See country team submission, para. 65-67.
[84] See CRC/C/WSM/Q/2-4, para. 12.